



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

GET INVOLVED

- RARS General Membership meeting: First Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 p.m. on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net: Saturdays @ 8:30 p.m. or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

- City of Oaks Marathon, Raleigh, Nov. 4
- Makin' Room for Turkey Ride, Raleigh, Nov. 18

Join Us!

RARS Annual Auction

What: Next RARS General meeting

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2012

Time: 7:15 p.m. **Note earlier start time!*

Where: First Alliance Church, 4400 Buffaloe Rd., Raleigh

Sold! It's Auction Time

Bring your Fabulous Amateur Radio-related items

By CJ Orr NC4CJ

The auction this year will be bigger and better than ever before!

If you submit your auction items online by midnight, Friday, Sept. 28, pre-printed labels and descriptions for each item will be ready when you arrive at the auction between 6:30 and 7:15 on Oct. 2.

What this means for the pre-registered seller: Just walk in, put a fabulous pre-printed label on your item(s), sit down, and relax.

What this means for the buyers: The business meeting can begin promptly at 7:15!

What's that? You want to know how to find the form? First read the RARS Auction rules <<http://rars.org/auction.php>>, then visit the online form <<http://rars.org/AuctionForm.php>>.

Once you have filled in the form the first time, it saves the common info—call sign, name, e-mail and phone number—so items you submit at the same time are partly completed for you.

Grab your wallet, head on over to the auction, and have fun!



RARS Officers

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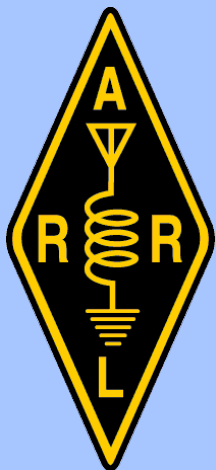
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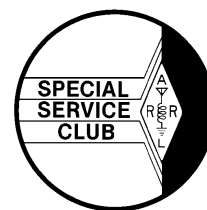
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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.



Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).

Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

Cathy Downs, KA3QPU, editor (editor@rars.org)

For Your Information

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church
4400 Buffaloe Road
Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 p.m.
The meeting officially begins at
7:30 p.m.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the second Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family. Feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

146.640 & 443.625 (88.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net at 8 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$14 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

Message from the President

Don't you think the new colors for the *Exciter* look great? I sure do! Please note that RARS has a new *Exciter* Editor—Cathy Downs, KA3QPU. Welcome, Cathy! We are pleased to be working with you on the *Exciter*. On a similar note, it is important to recognize the stellar job that Courtney Enzor, KI4HOS performed as the previous *Exciter* Editor. Thanks, Courtney!

I have been impressed with the presentations at the monthly RARS meetings and look forward to the upcoming RARS auction, which will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 2.

Although written almost two years ago, these comments are still relevant: I encourage all RARS members to attend our monthly meetings and activities. At those events, you will meet our new members, see your old friends, listen to outstanding presentations, participate in lively discussions, and share your expertise with others.

Ultimately, it is hoped that your participation in RARS will stimulate your ongoing interest in amateur radio and assure that RARS remains an outstanding and active amateur radio club.

In closing, please don't forget that there are still some opportunities to participate in public service activities. Upcoming events include the City of Oaks Marathon in Raleigh on November 4; and, the Makin' Room For Turkey Ride in Raleigh on Sunday, Nov. 18. For further information or to sign up, please see the RARS home page at www.rars.org and click on Public Service in the left column, or contact John AI4RT.

73, Karl W4CHX

APRS & Public Service

By Don Downs WA4AVU

Do you enjoy participating in Public Service events? Are you interested in APRS? Want to try both?

The City of Oaks Marathon on Sunday, Nov. 4, provides a great opportunity to combine APRS and Public Service. The marathon is sporting a new route this year, going up to Shelley Lake instead of Umstead Park. We should have excellent coverage for the entire course.



In the spirit of experimentation and increasing involvement, we'd like to get as many hams as possible using APRS in the marathon this year. There are many opportunities to help. For example, we could use:

- Portable digipeaters to provide more consistent coverage of the course. We may choose to use an alternate frequency, due to a reporting filter on the local 144.39 repeater.
- One or more stations set up as iGates to gate traffic between the RF network and APRS-IS.
- Mobile and portable stations in multiple positions—shadowing race officials, providing reports from water stations, etc.
- Mobile stations in police escort vehicles, etc.

We might also consider putting up an APRS display station at the Start/Finish line to provide updates to the race officials and general public.

If you already have APRS equipment, this is a great chance to try it out. If not, RARS has three stations that can be loaned out for this purpose.

Also, anyone with a smartphone can run an APRS app. These apps can provide full APRS functionality, including position reporting and messaging using a smartphone. We plan to combine the smartphone and RF information to provide full course coverage.

www.rars.org

New RARS Members

Chris Buchanan	KK4JCK
Brandon Buchanan	KK4JCJ
Joe Nichols	KK4KZQ
John Yarborough	KJ4JAS

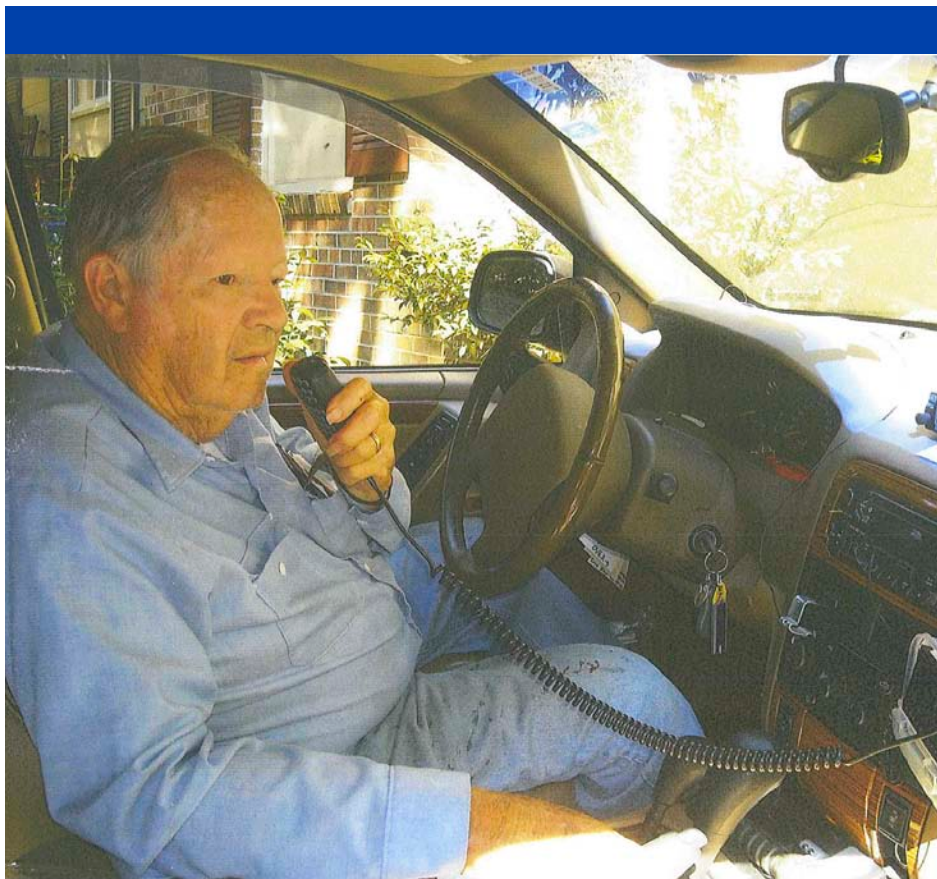
October Birthdays

Pete	K4PHS	10/02
Jay	KM4EP	10/02
Olivia	KG4IYI	10/02
Dave	K4SAN	10/02
Rod	AB4RG	10/05
Marisa	KJ4TAL	10/07
Todd	AG4AY	10/08
Mike	K4PSP	10/09
Gale	K4GGB	10/10
Chris	KI4MMV	10/10
Frank	KY4W	10/11
Sean	KJ4EGT	10/17
Candy	NC4CJ	10/18
Mike	K4DRT	10/19
Joey	KE4DRJ	10/21
Gary	KN4AQ	10/22
Curt	W4CP	10/23
Chris	KK4JCK	10/24
Ric	KI4PVC	10/25
Luz	W2LUZ	10/26
Vince	WA2SRZ	10/28

So grab your radio and/or phone, and come on out to the City of Oaks Marathon! Let's give APRS a workout!

For more information on plans for APRS at the marathon, please contact Don Downs at [wa4avu\(at\)arrl.net](mailto:wa4avu(at)arrl.net).

For information on the City of Oaks Marathon, visit <http://cityofoaksmarathon.com>. To volunteer, sign up here: http://www.hampublicservice.org/?page_id=7. In the Additional Comments section, please list APRS and indicate if you will use RF, smartphone, or both.



AMATEUR RADIO

By
Sam Johnson,
NC4SJ

Sam shares his career and involvement in ham radio with us in the following article.

If you would like to share your amateur radio story, please e-mail editor@rars.org.

Active Ham—At age 85 I am working in my law office half time and enjoy amateur radio, camping, gardening, and outdoor cooking.

Electronics—In 1946-47, I was in the U.S. Navy, out of boot camp and a graduate of basic electronics studying Advanced Electronics at the Naval Research Lab in Washington, D.C. As a farm boy from North Carolina I knew nothing about electronics but checked out some books and studied and passed the pre-admission exam so I joined the Navy rather than be drafted in the Army.

Florida Ham—In 1980 I was sitting in an outside mall in

Florida enjoying the breeze and observing the people while my wife went shopping. Nearby was a vendor who had a stand and a hand mike. He explained that he was in amateur radio and when he did not have a customer he enjoyed talking on the air. His antenna wires were up in the trees.

Tech License—In 1988 I began studies in a course sponsored by RARS and obtained my tech license in 1990, after struggling so hard with the five words per minute code that I stopped my efforts.

Code Solved—In 2000 Fred Breidt, AG4WE, moved to Raleigh for retirement to be

near his son and consulted me for his estate planning and during the interview I determined that his hobby was amateur radio and I told him of my difficulty with code. Fred looked at my papers and with a smile indicated that I had all of the necessary code because it had been capped at five words per minute.

General Exam—With that reassurance I bought the necessary text books and did self study at my desk, about two hours per day, because I could not attend the Monday night classroom sessions. At that time my son and I were in a seven year Bible Study curriculum that met every

See **Ham**, continued on p. 6

Monday night. After much study I took the general exam and passed it in November 2001. Neal Fisher, N4HAF, was Chair of the Committee.

Amateur Extra—My studies continued at my desk as I prepared for the Amateur Extra and took the exam in May 2002. Norman Young, KA4PUV, was Chairman and gave me a “thumbs up” and I received my Amateur Extra license on June 6, 2002.

Help From Others

Many people have helped me, in the true spirit of amateur radio, including the following:

- Holt Thornton, AC4UD, helped me with prep for the Amateur Extra.
- Neal Fisher, N4HAF, visited and helped me with my layout.
- Tim Buehlmann, W4TIM, now deceased, installed my 2 meter antenna on my car trunk, invited me to see his garage where there were at least 300 antique transmitters and receivers and he asked me to handle his estate matters.
- Bill Edwards, K4BWC, now deceased, helped me with my inverted V antenna attached to a tall pine tree in my yard.

- Tom Alexander, WA4OTA, now deceased, assisted with my tri-band dipole between two trees in my backyard.
- Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, assisted in troubleshooting my mobile unit, and Bill McDowell, K4CIA, also assisted in troubleshooting my mobile unit.
- Alan Pitegoff, AD40Z, transported me to night meetings of RARS when I was visually impaired.

Shack Equipment

Equipment—Hams often buy radios when they pass the first exam but I waited until I had my Amateur Extra license, which was KC4KIC. Bill Edwards, K4BWC, who was active in ARRL, insisted that I have a vanity plate and he is responsible for NC4SJ.

Base Station—ICOM IC-746PRO Transceiver 100 watts, ASTRON POWER, ICOM AT-180 Antenna Tuner or manual MFJ versa Turner II, Alpha Delta DX EE tri-band dipole, inverted dipole, all up in my trees, and a 2 meter ICOM 207-H.

Location—My base station is in my backyard office upstairs and convenient to the trees for antennas.

Mobile Station—ICOM 7000 transceiver with automatic tune control and screw driver antenna from Charlie in California and 2 meter ICOM 207-H.

Vehicle—Mobile station is in my 1999 Grand Cherokee Limited Jeep with an extended antenna mounted on the left rear corner to be high enough to go above the cabinets on top of the Jeep containing camping and cooking equipment, with two heavy batteries so that when I go camping I have a fresh battery to bring me home.

Today

Camping is my opportunity to use the amateur radio where I have some leisure time and am relaxed on top of a hillside or a mountain at a state park in North Carolina.

Fred Breidt, AG4WE, is responsible for my purchasing the mobile unit and assists me as needed.

Frank Terharr-Yonkers, W4FTV, is an excellent engineer and my regular mobile volunteer technician. Frank has equipment similar to my mobile unit and the furthest he has talked is Australia.

I am optimistic.

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting Raleigh Amateur Radio Society August 21, 2012

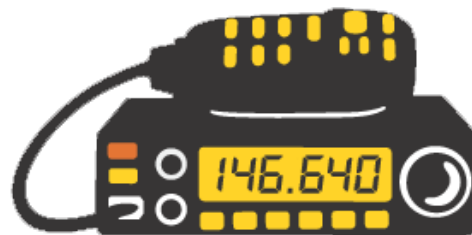
Present: CJ NC4CJ, Chuck K4HF, Bob W4TTX, Karl W4CHX, Greg KE4PAX, John AI4RT, Ken KI4OTO, Cathy KA3QPU, Chuck W3WZN, Hank K4HM, Selene KG4RMT, Jack N6UYB

Apologies and/or emailed reports: Bob W4TTX

1. **Call to order (Karl W4CHX):** Karl W4CHX called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. **Approval of minutes (Karl W4CHX):** Approval of the Minutes of the July 17, 2012 Board meeting was deferred to later in the meeting pending some minor changes. The Minutes were approved subsequently.
3. **Vice President's report (CJ NC4CJ):** CJ NC4CJ reported that the November topic will be Maker Faire.
4. **Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX):** Greg KE4PAX reported that RARS currently has 252 members. As always, if any RARS member has questions regarding the RARS budget, please contact Greg KE4PAX or Karl W4CHX for further information.
5. **Secretary's report (Bob KI4YXM):** No report.
6. **Committee reports:**
 - a. **Public Service Director (John AI4RT):** John AI4RT reported the public service activities scheduled for September (New Bern 9/8-9, Ride Without Limits 9/15-16, and Tour d'Orange 9/22). The City of Oaks Marathon and the Making Room For Turkey Ride are scheduled for November.
 - b. **Public Information Officer (Chuck W3WZN):** Chuck has generated a press release regarding our September meeting topic, "WW2 Radio Heroes, Letters of Compassion" by Ms. Lisa Spahr. Chuck W3WZN also reported that he has been offered the position of ARRL Liaison to the NC State Gov. He will continue in his position as Public Information Officer until a replacement is named.
 - c. **Education Director (Virginia NC4VA):** No report.
 - d. **Field Day Chair (Bob W4TTX):** No report. Karl W4CHX reported that Bob W4TTX has agreed to be Field Day Chair again next year.
 - e. **FM Repeater Chair (Karl W4CHX):** Karl W4CHX provided an update on status of testing and repairing the 145.13 repeater equipment. Regarding the Bayleaf building replacement: kudos were extended to Cliff W4FT for getting information regarding permits and building design.
 - f. **RARSFest Chair (John AI4RT):** John AI4RT has scheduled an initial organizing committee meeting for Monday, September 24th.
 - g. **Exciter Chair (Cathy KA3QPU):** Cathy Downs, KA3QPU, is the new *Exciter* Editor. She reported on her plans to make minor revisions to the newsletter format since we no longer do bulk mailing of the *Exciter*. The Board discussed guidelines regarding the newsletter format and any mandatory content, e.g., the RARS logo. Cathy KA3QPU will issue the *Exciter* seven days before the general meeting. She will set appropriate deadlines for submitting material.
 - h. **Hospitality Chair (Mary Jo K4MJL):** No report.

See **Board Meeting Minutes**, continued on p. 8

- i. **Net Manager (Mary KG4OQA):** No report.
 - j. **ARRL Liaison (Chuck K4HF):** Chuck K4HF reported that Joel P. Kleinman, N1BKE, Managing Editor of QST, was killed in a fire in his home.
 - k. **At-Large Director (Don WA4AVU):** No report.
 - l. **At-Large Director (Ken KI4OTO):** No report. Ken KI4OTO had to leave the meeting before he could present his report.
 - m. **At-Large Director (Jack N6UYB):** No report.
 - n. **W4DW/W4RNC Trustee (Jeff AC4ZO):** No report.
 - o. **RARS VE Coordinators (Joe WA4GIR and Liz KO4CK):** No report.
 - p. **RARS Webmaster (Hank K4HM):** There was a discussion of the auction information from Cliff W4FT, which includes specific instructions for registering items to be sold at the auction, including how to manage the tags and equipment list. CJ NC4CJ will contact Cliff W4FT and reach agreement on how to proceed. Lastly, there was a discussion on setting up a web page to display the awards and plaques that have been presented to RARS. There was some discussion of making a slide show of the recent plaques to run before the meeting.
 - q. **North Carolina QSO Party (Marty W4MY):** No report.
7. **Old business:**
- a. **New award for RARS members (Ken KI4OTO):** Deferred, since Ken had to leave the meeting unexpectedly.
 - b. **Insurance coverage for RARS (Greg KB4PAX):** Karl W4CHX has sent a list of the repeater equipment in his possession to Greg KE4PAX. A complete list including insurance value will be compiled for use in setting up insurance coverage.
 - c. **Silent Keys (Bob KI4YXM):** Bob KI4YXM will send a list to Greg KE4PAX of the families that have been sent sympathy cards for Silent Keys in 2011-12.
- d. **Speaker at Cary Libraries (Karl W4CHX):** RARS has been asked to provide a speaker for a presentation at the library. Karl W4CHX has contacted Ms. Mellott regarding this matter.
8. **New business:**
- Display of plaques and awards (Karl W4CHX):** See discussion under RARS Webmaster (Hank K4HM), section 6p.
9. **Any other business:** None.
10. **Board member's comments:**
- a. **CJ NC4CJ:** We have a longer and longer business meeting. As a courtesy to our speakers, we should try to adhere to a tighter schedule for the presentation deferring announcements or club business until after the presentation.
 - b. **Jack N6UYB:** Remarked about space in the board meeting room. Karl W4CHX asked that people investigate a new meeting place.
 - c. **Chuck W3WZN:** Commented about a club that set aside a fund for hams needing assistance in getting gear, particularly for public service. He said we should consider a fund for public service equipment. We might also investigate setting up a scholarship.
 - d. **CJ NC4CJ:** has contacted Jack N6UYB about Christmas music (background).
11. **Adjournment (Karl W4CHX):** The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.



Minutes

General Membership Meeting *Raleigh Amateur Radio Society* *September 4, 2012*

Guests: Karl W4CHX introduced the guest attendees: Scott Bitner KD8FVH, Henry Black K3MYG, Lee Miller KD4LLY, Joseph Nichols KK4VZQ, Elizabeth Nichols, and Audrey Young (mother of Marty W4MY)

Call to order: Karl W4CHX called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Approval of minutes: The Minutes of the RARS General Membership meeting on August 7, 2012, were approved as presented.

Vice President's report (CJ NC4CJ): No report. It is noted that CJ came to get the refreshments ready and had to return home to care for her dog.

Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): RARS currently has 259 members. If any RARS member has any questions, please contact Greg KE4PAX or Karl W4CHX for further information.

Announcements (Karl W4CHX):

Time management at the meeting: Karl W4CHX announced that in the interest of better time management, he will no longer make announcements regarding items covered on the club's web page. This would include events such as the RARS Dinner, RARS Board meeting, and upcoming hamfests.

MS event in New Bern: Karl W4CHX announced that there is a desperate need for additional support at the MS bike event in New Bern. Interested individuals were referred to the RARS webpage for further information and to volunteer.

Plaques and other presentations to RARS: Karl W4CHX announced that the board has decided to make images of recently presented plaques and testimonials to RARS available on its web page. The details are being worked out on this.

Other Announcements:

RARS Auction at October meeting (Cliff W4FT): Cliff W4FT discussed the RARS auction scheduled for the October meeting. He noted that, although there is a way to fill out information on items to be auctioned on the RARS website, one should come to the auction prepared to fill out the appropriate forms. Richard KB4TKQ volunteered to be the auctioneer at the October meeting.

Drawing: The winner was Hank K4HM.

Program: Marty W4MY introduced Ms. Lisa Spahr, who gave a presentation about her book, *World War II Radio Heroes*. The presentation was well received.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. by Karl W4CHX

LOCAL AMATEUR RADIO NETS

The **Apex Emergency Response Communications Net** meets weekly each Sunday at 9 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' disaster relief efforts. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 p.m. on the 146.880 repeater for the **Central Carolina SKYWARN** net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

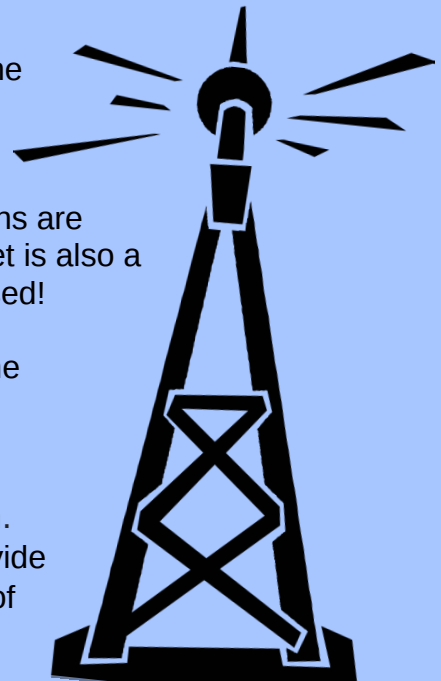
The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets daily at 9 p.m. on the 146.880 repeater. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 repeater at 8:30 p.m.

Join us every evening at 8 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays at 9:15 p.m. (after the PCTN TrafficNet) on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information please visit <http://www.wakeares.org>.



Want a By Line?

Everyone has a favorite aspect of amateur radio. From contests to antenna building, there's something for everyone. Why not share your interests, expertise, and experience with RARS in the *Exciter*? We welcome member and non-member/affiliate submissions.

Both technical and non-technical articles are needed for the *Exciter*. You could write up a quick column on QSL cards or a longer how-to piece on setting up a new shack. And don't feel pressured to write a novel; articles of all sizes are appreciated!

To submit an article, simply email your piece to the Editor (editor@rars.org). Please also feel free to attach pictures to accompany your article. It is helpful if you add captions and identify the people in photographs, and have their permission to use their image.

We look forward to learning from each other and broadening our club's knowledge base! Break out those pens, pencils, and keyboards and get writing!

RARS Classifieds

Want to add a new radio to your shack? Have an antenna for sale? Browse the RARS classifieds for new and used radio equipment at <http://rars.org/classifieds.php>.

RARS members may post notices about equipment they are selling. Posts last for 30 days and are editable at any time.

Using our classifieds is a great way for buyers to search for available items and for sellers to reach a local, targeted audience.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

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Raleigh, NC 27619

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